

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CY

SUBJECT: AUB STUDENTS

REF: STATE 207519

1. CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU MET AUGUST 23 WITH EUR/SE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE COPY OF SECOND CABLE (BEING POUCHED) FROM MRS. SOULIOTI. LANGUAGE OF THIS CABLE WAS SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN ORIGINAL READ TO LAINGEN, (REFTEL). MAIN POINT OF DIMITRIOU'S PRESENTATIONS WAS TO URGE WE SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR AUB STUDENTS. DIMITRIOU ALSO NOTED THAT NUMBER HAS NOW SHRUNK TO 29.

2. SE DIRECTOR REITERATED US SYMPATHY AND DESIRE TO HELP, AND NOTED THAT PROSPECTIVE PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOT STUDENTS. HE ALSO EXPLAINED TO DIMITRIOU STATE-OMB-CONGRESS BUDGET PROCESS, AND WHILE DECLINING TO PROMISE THAT WE COULD ACTUALLY SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS, HE SAID WE WOULD INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF

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INDICATING TO CONGRESS, IN COMMENTS TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

FOR EXAMPLE THAT WE WOULD FAVOR EARMARKING SOME FUNDS IN ALLOTMENT FOR CYPRUS FOR USE OF FORMER AUB STUDENTS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MRS. SOULIOTI'S STATEMENT THAT GOC WOULD "REJECT" ANY ATTEMPT TO USE RELIEF FUNDS TO HELP THESE STUDENTS -- WHICH SHE BACKED UP WITH QUOTE FROM MINFIN PATSALIDES TO SAME EFFECT -- WE EXPLAINED TO DIMITRIOU THAT THIS ONLY LEGAL ROUTE OPEN. WE WOULD BE WILLING GO ON RECORD AS FAVORING SUPPORT OF THESE STUDENTS: BUT IF GOC DOES IN FACT WISH TO STATE OFFICIALLY THAT THEY WOULD REJECT SUCH A PROPOSAL, OUR EFFORTS HERE SHOULD BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID WASTED EFFORT AND CONGRESSIONAL EMBARRASSMENT.

4. FYI WE ARE EXPLORING WITH OMB AND AID POSSIBILITY OF FORTHCOMING STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT, BUT DO NOT RPT NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS. IF MRS. SOULIOTI PERSISTS IN TRYING TO FURTHER EXPAND CYPRIOT AID REQUEST, EVEN THIS ALTERNATIVE, WHICH IS ONLY ONE WE HAVE, MAY WELL BE LOST. END FYI. KISSINGER

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